

Lynn F. Duby,
Commissioner

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Riverview Psychiatric Center

Augusta, Maine

"One gets used to having the mentally ill getting second best, so to hear that the building will be carefully designed and made as pleasant as possible is wonderful."

-A family member

"I really feel heard in the process to build a new hospital."

-The Augusta Mental Health Institute Quality Improvement Council, consumer member

A New Psychiatric Center for Maine

The State of Maine is building a 92-bed civil and forensic psychiatric treatment facility to replace an existing 161 year old state hospital, the Augusta Mental Health Institute (AMHI) which opened in October, 1840.

The new facility, Riverview Psychiatric Center, will offer a state-of-the-art treatment environment that supports healing, respect, and safety. Research and common sense clearly speak to the importance of the environment on recovery and healing and this new facility takes advantage of all that design can offer.

Features that are key aspects of this healing envi-

ronment include an open courtyard, private rooms and bathrooms, radiant ceiling heat and humidification in patient care areas, artwork and a design that takes full advantage of natural light

During the past 25 years, deinstitutionalization has often been synonymous with the closing of the state institutions. Now, in this new century, the Maine Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services (BDS), through the support of Governor Angus S. King, Jr. and the Maine Legislature, has reaffirmed the clear need for state hospitals as part of the array of mental health services in the State of Maine.

During the second session of the 119th Legislature, \$33 million was approved for the costs associated with building the new facility. Construction began March, 2002; with completion in August, 2003 and transition to the new facility by November, 2003.

Architect: JSA Inc.

Contractor: Granger Northern, Inc.

In cooperation with the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

*For more information about BDS visit:
www.state.me.us/bds/*



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State of Maine
Department of Behavioral
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